



**US Army Corps
of Engineers
Fort Worth District**

News Release

Release No. CESWF-PA-02-006 Contact: Ron Ruffennach

For Release: Immediate 7 November 01 Phone: (817) 978-2196

Army Corps of Engineers seeks public comment on environmental document for the Miller Springs Ecosystem Restoration Project at Belton Lake

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, is accepting comments on the Environmental Assessment, a National Environmental Policy Act document, for the alternatives pertaining to the proposed implementation of the Miller Springs Ecosystem Restoration Project below the Belton Lake dam in Bell County, Texas.

The proposed alternative would create approximately 3.5 acres of emergent wetland habitat, reforest 5.7 acres of bottomland hardwood habitat, and restore 57.7 acres of native grassland prairie habitat.

The proposed alternative would restore biodiversity and carrying capacity for resident and migratory fish, wildlife and vegetation species. Benefits to fish and wildlife would include increased nesting and feeding habitat. Water quality within the project area would improve due to decreased soil erosion, increased soil deposition and the establishment of aquatic vegetation.

The public may submit written comments on the Environmental Assessment, or EA, through Dec. 10, 2001, by mailing them to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, ATTN: Jeffry Tripe, CESWF-PER-EE, P.O. Box 17300, Fort Worth, Texas 76102-0300, or by e-mailing them to Jeffry.A.Tripe@swf.usace.army.mil. Copies of the project measures, EA and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact are available at the Belton Public Library, 301 E. 1st Avenue, and at the Temple Public Library, 100 W. Adams Avenue. Copies may also be requested in writing at the above address or by telephone at (817) 978-6392.